THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Central Government had requested the Chief Ministers of the States in April 1984 for making a thorough review of the arrangements for flood fighting and flood relief operations to meet this year's flood situation. They were also advised to expeditiously complete the works in areas prone to heavy floods and also provide adequate funds to ensure proper maintenance of the flood control works to reduce flood damages and human sufferings. The State Governments of Manipur, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bihar, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Nagaland, Gujarat, Delhi Administration, Orissa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have acknowledged the letter and have intimated that the matter would be looked into and necessary action taken as advised.

(c) The letter to State Governments was of advisory nature and did not ask for any report.

(d) Question does not arise.

Likely short-fall in sugar production

335. SHRI R. SAMBA SIVA RAO:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for sugar production during the 1983-84 season;

(b) the quantum of sugar produced so far;

(c) whether there is or is likely to be a sharp fall in its production during the current season;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to import sugar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) There are wide variations in the production of sugarcane from year to year due to a variety of reasons including weather conditions, rain-fall etc. leading to fluctuations in sugar production from season to season. It is, therefore, not feasible to fix the target of sugar production as such on a year to year basis although the target of sugar requirement for the season 1983-84 as provided in the Sixth Five Year Plan was 73 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d) In the current sugar season 1983-84, the sugar production upto 30th June is 58.57 lakh tonnes. The total sugar production in 1983-84 season is expected to be around 59 lakh tonnes as against 82.32 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 season, showing a decline of 23.32 lakh tonnes.

The main reason for decline in sugar production in 1983-84 season is the fall in the production of sugarcane due to natural factors such as drought in some States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Moreover, late rains in Northern region delayed the maturity of cane which resulted in low recovery in the case of many sugar factories in that region.

(e) Government have so far finalised contracts for the import of about 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar which is expected to arrive in India by November, 1984.

Guidelines to streamline Public Distribution System

336. SHRI R. SAMBA SIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what special measures the Central Government propose to take